

FIA Family Resource Centers Talking Points

Purpose:

The Family Resource Centers are placed within the priority schools to coordinate services according to the goals developed and shared by the family, community, school and all other agencies involved. These centers serve as a “one stop shop” for family services located within or near a neighborhood school.

Long Term Goals:

- Create a user-friendly environment for families in need of state and local human services.
- Pool resources of state and local agencies for efficiency.
- Ensure that families needs are met through comprehensive services that lead them toward stability.

Examples of Services Provided through FRC's.

- Food, clothing and shelter assistance
- Emergency Assistance for utility shut off, rental eviction & other housing issues, funeral expenses, etc.
- Access for to mental health services, therapy etc.
- School – based parent involvement programs

Expected Outcomes:

- Increase Academic Performance
- Increased Parental Participation
- Decreased Absenteeism
- Decreased Truancy
- Decreased Student School Behavior Problems.

Financial Cost:

The Family Independence Agency has made these centers a financial priority because we believe that early intervention and prevention services will result in budgetary savings in the future. Preliminary cost analysis is indicating that the bulk of the expense is related to infrastructure start-up costs.

Preliminary Feedback:

Initial reaction from the local communities is overwhelmingly positive. Family Resource Specialists are collecting initial anecdotal evidence from families served indicating improved classroom behavior and increased family stability. Services that families have accessed through the FRC's are (but not limited to):

- Income Supports
- Health Care Services
- Mental Health Services
- Substance Abuse Services
- Housing Assistance

Expansion:

Governor Granholm announced the expansion of twenty additional sites that are scheduled for opening by September 2004. She is quoted as saying, “This is not a pilot, it is a movement.” The expansion sites are still in the selection phase and will be announced by early summer.